

# Regional Council Activity Report

June 7, 1999



Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director James M. Bourey

## Executive Director's Report

History is quietly being made in Arizona's transportation arena. And, while it probably won't end up in any textbooks, it deserves at the very least our celebratory salute. On April 30th, representatives from federal, state, and regional organizations met in the City of Casa Grande to help forge a new regionally-based transportation planning and programming process. After developing a set of guiding principles and a procedural flow chart, the representatives signed an agreement supporting the new process. That agreement is now known as the "Casa Grande Resolves."

The new process marks a significant departure from the old way of doing business by combining the transportation planning and programming procedures of the State and regions into one multi-modal transportation planning process for each region. In the past, the State and regions developed transportation plans on parallel but separate tracks, coming together late in the process to work out discrepancies. The Guiding Principles of the Casa Grande Resolves call for early and regular dialogue and interaction at the state and regional level. They call for a process that recognizes the needs of regional organizations as well as state, local and tribal governments, and which encourages early and frequent public participation and stakeholder involvement.

Another important variation from the past is the call for the development of a Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan. The Guiding Principles require not only that a Statewide LRTP be developed, but that all programmed projects be linked to that long-range plan. In addition, the Casa Grande Resolves establish a revenue allocation process that calls on the program to represent an equitable allocation of resources. This process will be overseen by a Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC), with representation from the Arizona Department of Transportation, Transportation Management Areas, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Councils of Government and transit operators. The RAAC will be set up to operate by consensus decisions rather than votes.

These developments mark a significant change in the relationship between Arizona's transportation partners — a change we believe will result in a better, more efficient transportation programming process that will benefit not only transportation planners, but stakeholders and users as well.



## **Regional Council Meeting Report for May 26, 1999**

### **Council Approves MAG Regional Domestic Violence Plan**

It was continued from the agenda in April to accommodate debate over several major transportation items, but a presentation on the MAG Regional Plan on Domestic Violence was undeniably worth the wait. After vividly laying out the seriousness and complexity of the domestic violence problem in the region, Tom Canasi, Social Services Administrator for the City of Tempe and Chair of the MAG Human Services Technical Committee, outlined 41 recommendations that provide a comprehensive, coordinated community response to domestic violence in the Valley. The recommendations were developed by approximately 150 professionals and individuals over a four-month period. The recommendations focus on four areas: prevention and early intervention, crisis and transitional response, system coordination, and long-term response. The Regional Council unanimously approved the plan. After the vote, one audience member was heard to comment "This is the most important thing MAG has ever done."

**For more information, contact Carol Kratz, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Work Plan and Budget Set Upcoming Year Activities**

For the second year, MAG has combined its annual work program and budget into an integrated document known as the Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget (UPWP). The purpose of this document is to outline the Regional Council's policy direction and fiscal commitments for the upcoming year. The FY 2000 budget of \$9,382,687 represents a 1.41 percent increase over the amended FY 1999 budget. For FY 2000, member dues and assessments were adjusted to reflect population growth and inflation. Along with a description of MAG's revenues and expenditures, the Work Program contains a comprehensive look at MAG's objectives and goals in our many diverse project areas. The Regional Council unanimously adopted the FY 2000 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget.

**For more information, contact Art Rullo, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**



## **Upcoming Issues**

### **Special Regional Council Meeting to be Held June 9**

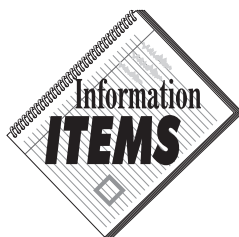
A special meeting of the MAG Regional Council has been scheduled for June 9, 1999. The purpose of the special meeting is so that Council members can consider for approval the following agenda items: the FY 1999 Final Phase Input Opportunity Report; FY 2000-2004 Transportation Improvement Program; Long Range Transportation Plan 1999 Update; Finding of Conformity for the draft TIP and Plan; and the Supplemental Conformity Analysis for the Current Approved 1998 Conformity Finding. The Special Meeting action by the Regional Council will ensure that the transportation projects in the TIP and Long Range Plan will be completed in a timely manner.

**For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.**

### **MAG Exploring Opportunities to Host Governor's Task Force**

The Maricopa Association of Governments has been working with the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force to provide information as needed. We are exploring opportunities for MAG to host this group in an informative session to review the activities of MAG as a Metropolitan Planning Organization, and to discuss our transportation and air quality challenges. We are working with the Governor's Office on this issue and we will keep you posted on a potential forum date.

**For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.**



## **Information Items**

### **MAG hosts 2nd Y2K Forum**

On Friday, June 4, MAG hosted its second in a series of forums dealing with issues surrounding the Year 2000 computer problem. The topic of the forum was the impact of Y2K on utilities. Featured speakers included Dave Brown, Y2K Project Manager, Arizona Public Service Co.; Ray Jussila, Y2K Project Manager, Salt River Project; Dave Duran, Area Manager, US West; and Garth Andrews, Manager of Communications, Southwest Gas. Discussions centered on steps the utility industry has taken to prepare for any potential disaster. The next forum has been scheduled for June 29, 1999. That forum will focus on key communication messages to the public as well as legal and liability issues surrounding Y2K.

**For more information, contact Kelly Taft, Public Communications Program Manager, (602) 452-5020.**

### **MAG Receives Fiscal Award**

The Maricopa Association of Governments has received one of the highest awards in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded MAG the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. According to the GFOA, "the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

The Achievement Award was given to MAG for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users to read the CAFR. MAG is only the 15th out of 500 Councils of Governments nationwide to ever receive this award.

### **Upcoming Events**



#### **Reservations Being Accepted for Desert Peaks Awards**

The Maricopa Association of Governments will once again honor regional achievements through its Second Annual Desert Peaks Awards on June 23, 1999. The awards celebrate excellence in regional cooperation between MAG member agencies, citizens, public agencies and the private sector. Sixty-one nominations encompassing 81 organizations and individuals were received. The awards are to be presented in the following five categories:

- **Regional Excellence.** This award is for the single individual who has demonstrated commitment to regionalism. Individual nominations may be made of any elected or appointed public official or any private sector individual who works and lives in Maricopa County.
- **Regional Partnership.** Awarded to two or more member agencies that have demonstrated commitment to regionalism through cooperative efforts. Nominations must be comprised of Maricopa Association of Governments member agencies.
- **Public-Private Partnership.** Awarded to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through a public-private partnership. Nominations must include at least one MAG member agency

- Public Partnership. Awarded to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through public sector or public/non-profit partnership.
- Distinguished Service Award(s). For the individual(s) who has contributed significant time and effort to regionalism through program or committee involvement.

The 1999 Desert Peaks Awards will be held in conjunction with the MAG Regional Council Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 23, at the Phoenix Airport Marriott, 1101 N. 44th St. (North of the 202 overpass, between Van Buren and McDowell). The Regional Council meeting begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by a reception at 6:00 p.m., with the dinner at 7:00 p.m. and the awards ceremony at 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person. Reservations are being taken now by calling (602) 254-6300, faxing your reply card to (602) 254-6309, or mailing your reservation to the Maricopa Association of Governments, 300 N. 1st Avenue, Ste. 300, Phoenix, Arizona, 85003.

**For more information, contact Audrey Evans, MAG Office Services Supervisor, or Kelly Taft, Public Communications Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Next Regional Council Meetings**

The next Regional Council Meeting will be a Special Meeting June 9, 1999. The next regular Regional Council meeting is the Annual Meeting scheduled for June 23, 1999. Agenda items will include recommended approval for the Draft MAG 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan and Draft MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 for the Maricopa County Nonattainment area. The meeting will be immediately followed by the Desert Peaks Awards evening.

**For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.**